

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Bird List



Waves of migrating birds pulse through the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge during the spring and fall migrations.

From tidal salt marsh to salt ponds, from seasonal vernal pools to upland habitat, the refuge offers wildlife viewing year-round.



Introduction

A major stop on the Pacific Flyway

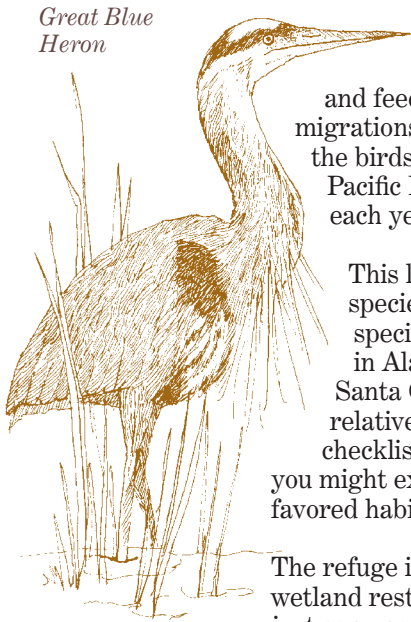
San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the west coast of the United States. Its 30,000 acres of wetlands, open water, and upland habitats are home to at least 800,000 birds at any given time and to millions during peak migration. Some of these birds are permanent residents and a few come here only to breed. Most, however, use the Bay as a resting and feeding stop on their long migrations. Seventy percent of the birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway spend some time each year at San Francisco Bay.

This list, which includes 227 species, includes all avian species found on refuge lands in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. The relative abundances in the checklist indicate how frequently you might expect to see a bird in its favored habitat.

The refuge is undergoing a large wetland restoration project, and in just one year the effects of the initial restoration have changed species abundance and diversity significantly. It is expected that over the next decade this list will need revisions. We welcome your input.

Consult field guides or reference books to learn the specific habitats in which a particular species can be found. This checklist is arranged in accordance with the nomenclature used in the *A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th edition (2006).

This list was compiled by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory with the assistance of many experienced ornithologists and veteran birders. Special thanks go to Al Demartini, Michael Mammoser, Peter Metropulos, Bob Richmond, Mike Rogers, and Cheryl Strong.



Great Blue Heron

Bird List Key

Abbreviations and Symbols

Sp - Spring, March through May
S - Summer, June through August
F - Fall, September through November
W - Winter, December through February

Abundance Symbols

a - abundant - a common species which is very numerous
c - common - certain to be seen in suitable habitat
u - uncommon - present, but not certain to be seen
o - occasional - seen only a few times during a season
r - rare - known to be present, but not every year
* - birds known to nest locally

Threatened & Endangered Species

NRefuge - species found in northern range of the refuge
SRefuge - species found in southern range of the refuge



California Clapper Rail
© Bill Purcell

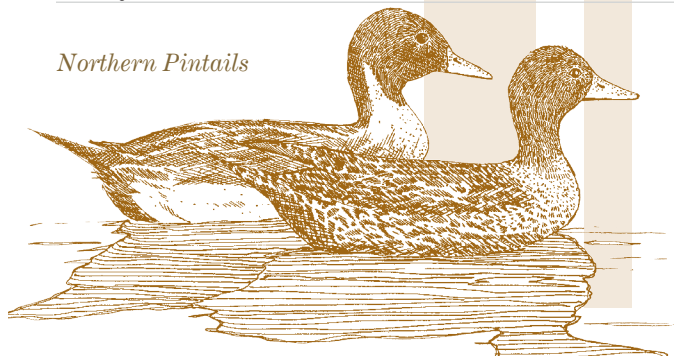
Common Name

Sp S F W

Waterfowl

Greater White-fronted Goose		r		o	o
Snow Goose				r	r
Ross's Goose				r	r
*Canada Goose		c	c	c	c
Cackling Goose		o		o	o
Brant		r		r	r
Tundra Swan				r	r
*Gadwall		c	c	c	c
Eurasian Wigeon		r		o	o
American Wigeon		c	r	a	a
*Mallard		c	c	c	c
Blue-winged Teal		o		o	o
*Cinnamon Teal		c	u	c	c
*Northern Shoveler		c	u	a	a
*Northern Pintail		c	u	c	c
Green-winged Teal		u	r	c	c
*Canvasback		c	r	c	a
Redhead	S Refuge	r		u	u
Ring-necked Duck		r		r	r
Tufted Duck		r		r	r
Greater Scaup		c	r	c	a
*Lesser Scaup		c	u	a	a
Surf Scoter		u		c	c
White-winged Scoter		r		r	r
Black Scoter		r		r	r
Long-tailed Duck		r		r	r
Bufflehead		c	r	c	a
Common Goldeneye		u		u	c
Barrow's Goldeneye		r		r	r
Hooded Merganser		r		o	o
Common Merganser		r		r	r
Red-breasted Merganser	S Refuge	u		u	c
*Ruddy Duck		c	u	a	a

Northern Pintails



Common Name

Sp S F W

Gallinaceous Birds

California Quail		r	r	r	r
*Ring-necked Pheasant		u	u	u	u

Loons

Red-throated Loon		o		o	o
Pacific Loon		r		r	r
Common Loon		o		o	o

Grebes

*Pied-billed Grebe		c	u	c	c
Horned Grebe		u		u	u
Red-necked Grebe		r		r	r
*Eared Grebe		a	o	c	a
Western Grebe		c	o	c	c
Clark's Grebe		c	o	c	c

Pelicans

American White Pelican		u	c	c	c
Brown Pelican		r	u	c	o

Cormorants

Brandt's Cormorant		r	r	r	r
*Double-crested Cormorant		c	c	a	c
Pelagic Cormorant		r	r	r	r

Bitterns, Herons and Egrets

American Bittern		r	r	o	o
Least Bittern			r	r	
*Great Blue Heron		c	c	c	c
*Great Egret		c	c	c	c
*Snowy Egret		c	c	c	c
*Little Blue Heron		r	r	r	
*Cattle Egret		r	r	r	r
Green Heron		o	o	o	r
*Black-crowned Night-Heron		c	c	c	c

Ibises and Spoonbills

*White-faced Ibis		r	r	r	
-------------------	--	---	---	---	--

New World Vultures

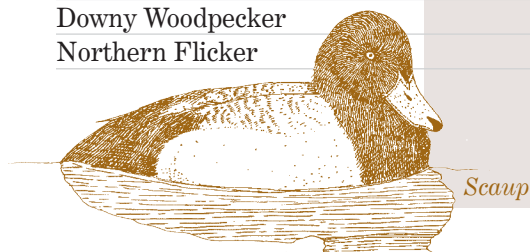
Turkey Vulture		c	c	c	c
----------------	--	---	---	---	---

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles				
Osprey	u	r	u	u
*White-tailed Kite	c	c	c	c
Bald Eagle			r	r
*Northern Harrier	c	c	c	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	o		u	o
Cooper's Hawk	o	r	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk	o	o	u	o
*Red-tailed Hawk	c	c	c	c
Ferruginous Hawk			r	r
Rough-legged Hawk	r		r	r
Golden Eagle	r	r	o	o
Falcons				
*American Kestrel	u	u	u	u
Merlin	o		u	u
*Peregrine Falcon	u	u	u	u
Prairie Falcon			r	r
Rails				
Black Rail			r	r
*Clapper Rail	u	u	u	u
Virginia Rail	u		c	u
Sora	u		c	u
*Common Moorhen	u	u	u	u
*American Coot	c	c	a	a
Cranes				
Sandhill Crane			r	r
Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	c	u	a	c
American Golden-Plover			r	
Pacific Golden-Plover	r		r	r
*Snowy Plover	o	o	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	c	u	c	u
*Killdeer	c	c	c	c
Stilts and Avocets				
*Black-necked Stilt	c	c	a	a
*American Avocet	c	c	a	a

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers and Phalaropes				
Greater Yellowlegs	c	u	c	c
Lesser Yellowlegs	o	o	u	o
Willet	c	u	a	a
Wandering Tattler	r		r	
Spotted Sandpiper	o		o	r
Whimbrel	o	o	u	u
Long-billed Curlew	c	u	c	c
Marbled Godwit	a	c	a	a
Ruddy Turnstone	o	r	o	o
Black Turnstone	o	r	o	o
Red Knot	NRefuge	u	r	u
Sanderling		u	r	u
Semipalmated Sandpiper		r	r	
Western Sandpiper	a	c	a	a
Least Sandpiper	c	u	c	c
Baird's Sandpiper	r	r	r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r	r	o	
Dunlin	a	r	a	a
Stilt Sandpiper			r	
Ruff	r		r	r
Short-billed Dowitcher	c	u	a	c
Long-billed Dowitcher	a	u	a	a
Wilson's Snipe	u		u	u
Wilson's Phalarope	o	a	u	r
Red-necked Phalarope	c	a	a	
Red Phalarope	r		r	r
Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls and Terns				
Parasitic Jaeger			o	
Franklin's Gull	r	r	r	
Bonaparte's Gull	c	o	c	c
Heermann's Gull			r	
Mew Gull	u		u	c
Ring-billed Gull	c	u	a	a
*California Gull	a	a	a	a
Herring Gull	a	r	a	a
Thayer's Gull	u		u	u
*Western Gull	c	u	c	c
Glaucous-winged Gull	u	o	c	c
Glaucous Gull	r			o
Sabine's Gull			r	

Skuas, etc., continued next page

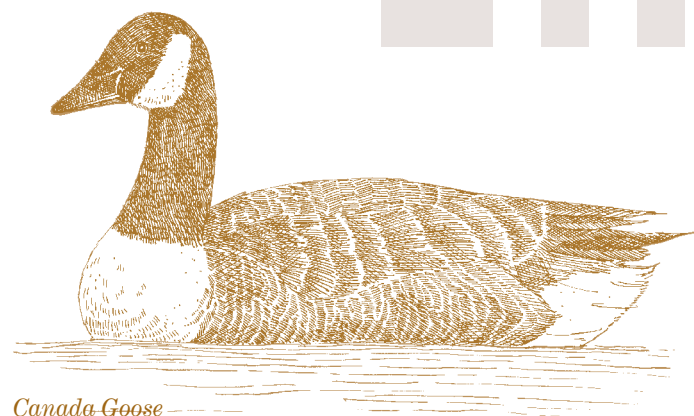
Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Skuas, etc., continued				
*Caspian Tern	c	c	c	
Elegant Tern		r	u	
Common Tern	r		o	
*Forster's Tern	a	a	a	u
Least Tern	u	u	r	
Black Tern	r		r	
*Black Skimmer	u	u	u	u
Auks and Puffins				
Common Murre		o	o	r
Pigeons and Doves				
Rock Dove	u	u	u	u
*Mourning Dove	c	c	c	c
Barn Owls				
*Barn Owl	u	u	u	u
Typical Owls				
Great Horned Owl	o	o	o	o
*Burrowing Owl	u	u	u	u
*Short-eared Owl	r	r	r	o
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift	o		u	
White-throated Swift	o	o	u	o
Hummingbirds				
*Anna's Hummingbird	c	c	c	c
Rufous Hummingbird	r		r	
Allen's Hummingbird			r	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	o	o	o	o
Woodpeckers				
Red-breasted Sapsucker			r	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	o	o	o	o
Downy Woodpecker	o		o	o
Northern Flicker	o		o	o



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Tyrant Flycatchers				
Western Wood-Pewee			o	
Willow Flycatcher			o	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			u	
*Black Phoebe	u	u	u	u
Say's Phoebe	r		o	o
Ash-throated Flycatcher			r	
Western Kingbird	o	r	r	
Shrikes				
*Loggerhead Shrike	u	u	u	u
Vireos				
Warbling Vireo	o		o	
Crows, Jays and Magpies				
*Western Scrub-Jay	u	u	u	u
American Crow	u	u	u	u
*Common Raven	c	c	c	c
Larks				
*Horned Lark	o	o	o	o
Swallows				
Purple Martin			r	
*Tree Swallow	u	u	u	o
Violet-green Swallow	u		c	o
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	o	u	
Bank Swallow	r	r	r	
*Cliff Swallow	a	a	u	
*Barn Swallow	c	c	c	r
Titmice and Chickadees				
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	o	o	o	o
Bushtits				
*Bushtit	c	c	c	c
Wrens				
Rock Wren	r	r	r	r
*Bewick's Wren	u	u	u	u
House Wren	r		o	r
*Marsh Wren	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	r		o	r
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	u		u	u
Old World Warblers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r		r	
Thrushes				
Swainson's Thrush	o		r	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	u
American Robin	o	o	o	u
Varied Thrush			r	r
Mimic Thrushes				
*Northern Mockingbird	c	c	c	c
Sage Thrasher	r		r	
Starlings				
*European Starling	c	c	c	c
Wagtails and Pipits				
American Pipit	c		c	c
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing	o		o	u
Wood Warblers				
Orange-crowned Warbler	o		u	r
Nashville Warbler	r		r	
Yellow Warbler	o		u	r
Yellow-rumped Warbler	c		c	c
Townsend's Warbler	r		r	r
Palm Warbler			r	
Blackpoll Warbler			r	
Northern Waterthrush			r	r
*Common Yellowthroat	c	c	c	c
Wilson's Warbler	u		u	
Tanagers				
Western Tanager	o		o	
Sparrows and Towhees				
Spotted Towhee			o	
*California Towhee	c	c	c	c
*Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	c

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	r			r
Fox Sparrow	u		c	u
*Song Sparrow	a	a	a	a
Lincoln's Sparrow	u		u	u
Swamp Sparrow			r	r
White-throated Sparrow	r		r	r
White-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Golden-crowned Sparrow	c		c	c
Dark-eyed Junco			o	o
Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies				
Black-headed Grosbeak	u		u	
Lazuli Bunting	r	r	r	
Blackbirds and Orioles				
*Red-winged Blackbird	c	c	c	c
Tricolored Blackbird	o		u	o
*Western Meadowlark	u	u	c	c
Brewer's Blackbird	u	u	u	u
Brown-headed Cowbird	u	u	u	o
Hooded Oriole	o	o		
*Bullock's Oriole	o	o	r	
Finches				
*House Finch	a	a	a	a
Lesser Goldfinch	u	u	u	u
*American Goldfinch	u	u	u	u
Old World Sparrows				
*House Sparrow	u	u	u	u



Canada Goose

Accidental Species



*Red-tailed
Hawk*

Brown Booby
Magnificent Frigatebird
Glossy Ibis
Wild Turkey
Black Oystercatcher
Solitary Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Bar-tailed Godwit
Surfbird
Little Stint
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Little Gull
Black-headed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Slaty-backed Gull
Arctic Tern
Ancient Murrelet
Pigeon Guillemot
Band-tailed Pigeon
Chimney Swift
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Least Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Tropical Kingbird
Cassin's Kingbird
Hutton's Vireo
Solitary Vireo
White Wagtail
American Redstart
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Sage Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Pine Siskin

Notes



Snowy Egret/© Larry Wade

**Don Edwards San Francisco Bay
National Wildlife Refuge**
9500 Thornton Ave
Newark, California 94560
Telephone: 510/792-0222
FAX: 510/792-5828
<http://www.fws.gov/desfbay>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD



February 2008

Black-necked Stilt/© Bill Purell